We all know who the “tempter” is. The enemy had tempted the angels in heaven. “The enemy had tempted the angels in heaven....” The Upward Look, 357.

After he had succeeded with the angels, he came after God’s newest creation, Adam and Eve.

“Adam and Eve were tempted of Satan. The tempter came to them, saying: ‘Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” Signs of the Times, October 8, 1894.

After such marvelous success with both the angels in heaven and the humans on earth, he then went after the Son of God.

“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” Matthew 4:3.

He did not have the success with Jesus that he did with the angels and us humans. But that did not cause him to stop. Then he went after Jesus’ disciples.

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. And he said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death. And he said, I tell thee, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shalt thrice deny that thou knowest me.” Luke 22:31-34.

Satan had tempted angels, Adam and Eve, the rest of humanity, and even Jesus Christ Himself... but who tempts Satan? Please read what Sister White says about the above situation with Peter:

“How true was the Saviour’s friendship for Peter! how compassionate His warning! But the warning was resented. In self-sufficiency Peter declared confidently that he would never do what Christ had warned him against. ‘Lord,’ he said, ‘I am ready to go with thee to prison and to death.’ His self-confidence proved his ruin. He tempted Satan to tempt him, and he fell under the arts of the wily foe. When Christ needed him most, he stood on the side of the enemy, and openly denied his Lord.” 5BC 1123.

You may have already guessed as much. It is we who tempt Satan. We tempt him to go after us every time we think, in our own self-confidence, that we can “handle” the situation.

Have you ever tempted the devil? We don’t usually think about it like that. We don’t think of ourselves as the tempters of the devil; we usually think of it the other way around. We would never be “tempters,” would we? Especially of the devil himself! We might tempt a friend, or a family member, or maybe even a church member, but certainly never the devil!

Do we have a problem with eating too much? Do we go to the “all-you-can-eat” buffet? We are tempting the devil to come after us. We think, even though we have a problem with over-indulging, that we will be able to handle it. Do we have a problem with watching too much TV? Do we then buy cable or a satellite, thinking we can control what we watch? We open the door and tempt the devil to come after us.

How about Bible study? Do we plan to get up early in the morning to study God’s word and pray, and then stay up late the night before, telling ourselves that we will still be able to get up? We are just asking the devil to come after us. Frankly, we are all probably pretty good at “tempting” the devil.

How do we stay away from tempting the devil to tempt us? How can we make sure we do not do what Peter did? Look to God and not to self!

“Many today stand where Peter stood, when in self-confidence he declared that he would not deny his Lord. And because of their self-sufficiency, they fall an easy prey to Satan’s devices. Those who realize their weakness trust in a power higher than self. And, while they look to God, Satan has no power against them. But those who trust in self are easily defeated. Let us remember that, if we do not heed the cautions that God gives us, a fall is before us. Christ will not save from wounds the one who places himself unbidden on the enemy’s ground. He lets the self-sufficient one, who acts as if he knew more than his Lord, go on in his supposed strength.” This Day with God, 259.
At Crosswalk.com on October 30th, readers found some absolutely incredible—and long overdue—news. It concerned Bill Hybels and his “seeker-sensitive” megachurch Willow Creek, which for over a decade has mentored thousands of pastors in his church-growth methods. The extent of influence has been enormous. Award-winning radio talk show host Bob Burney reported on the results of a multi-year study on Willow Creek’s effectiveness of programs and philosophy of ministry. The findings are published in a new book titled *Reveal: Where Are You?*, by Cally Parkinson and Greg Hawkins, executive pastor of Willow Creek Community Church. As Burney’s report reads, “It seems that the experts were wrong.”

A “Mistake” of Enormous Scope

“If you simply want a crowd, the ’seeker sensitive’ model produces results. If you want solid, sincere, mature followers of Christ, it’s a bust. In a shocking confession, Hybels states: ‘We made a mistake.’ ‘Some of the stuff that we have put millions of dollars into thinking it would really help our people grow and develop spiritually, when the data actually came back it wasn’t helping people that much. Other things that we didn’t put that much money into and didn’t put much staff against is stuff our people are crying out for.’”

Basically, Burney said, “…The guru of church growth now tells us that people need to be reading their bibles and taking responsibility for their spiritual growth.” What that serious “Book” has to teach us really is essential to our Christian experience.

As Hybels had to admit, it isn’t enough to have our “felt needs” answered. The heart is not a reliable guide to what’s truly important to us, anyway. “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?: Jer 17:9. Nor does a focus on “relevance” touch basic deeper spiritual hunger. Innovation without substance is empty. The candid admission of having missed the mark is a relief, for now there’s a readiness to set things right.

Changes in Our Church

We’ve seen many changes in our own church in the past few decades. One of the most impactful, and my present concern for our church, has been the use of worldly techniques such as taught in Willow Creek seminars in order to draw people into the church. Music, worship, food, sermons, entertainment—all have been affected by these efforts to “grow churches” and reach unbelievers—and in particular, young unbelievers. The new emphasis is on innovation, liveliness, social connectedness, programs for every age and interest. This—in the Day of Atonement.

And as in other denominations, it has often resulted in churches with two different kinds of worship services—and often within those churches two very different congregations who do not worship together. Sadly, this is far from the unity Christ prayed for on our behalf.

Those who have resisted the changes or objected to them have often been characterized as impeding or obstructing church growth, willing to let the lost be lost in order to protect the status quo, dinosaurs in their thinking, and legalistic, rather than loving. However, I believe that the motivation of those who protest is sincere love for the
church and for those who will join it.

Justifying the “Means”

The fundamental question that must be asked is, “Does the end justify the means?” And the answer, for our souls’ sakes, must be in the negative, because if someone from a secular perspective can see the weaknesses of those techniques and their inevitable outcome, surely we should be able to! How can we not be rightfully accused of misrepresenting the character of our Lord, if we do not face the nature of some of our thinking and change our methods? For example:

Dishonesty

We often justify using worldly methods, calling them a means to an end. We further say that after unbelievers are drawn to our worship services by those worldly methods, at some point we will admit that we don’t really agree with those worldly methods. In fact, we reject them as inconsistent with sober character preparation for heavenly citizenship. We will somehow confess that we just used those methods as one uses bait to catch a fish, but now it’s time to switch to more serious methods.

Even the secular world despises such a dishonest practice. “. . . A man of wicked devices is hated.” Prov 14:17.

Hypocrisy

If we “bait and switch,” if we present ourselves to the world as a church which likes those worldly methods and then correct or retract that image of ourselves later, is that not blatant hypocrisy?

How can we not see how the world might see us? Satan exults in the disparity between our words and our actions. The world sees that what we profess to believe—that the time of trouble is imminent, and Christ’s return will follow soon thereafter—and what we actually do about it are quite diverse. In some cases, “disconnected” might be a better descriptor. “The ultimate difficulty is that hypocrisy reflects not only on that member but also on the God whom he or she claims to be serving.” “For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through [because of] you . . .” Romans 2:24. This is the burden of my heart.

Are We True Christians?

Shall we use the world’s ways to draw men to Christ, who tells us “the friendship of the world is enmity to God”? James 4:4. Do you know what God calls those who do conform—in any way or degree—with the world? Spiritual adulterers and adulteresses.” James 4:4. When we profess to believe that we must use “modern, innovative, exciting” methods to attract or keep members, especially younger ones—in other words, when we claim we must use techniques used by Babylon in order to be successful in church growth—we’re saying the plain Word of God is so powerless, so unattractive, that we do not want to use it—at least initially. When we do finally get serious, then we’ll use it—but only in a modified, “seeker-sensitive” sort of way.” Can we call ourselves Christians and do this?

Spiritual Contradiction

We know the world is in spiritual crisis. Therefore, we take the position that any means, any methods that will pull in the unchurched, are worthwhile. “Desperate times call for desperate measures,” don’t they? It’s “any port in a storm,” even if it’s a Babylonian harbor. But the claim “the end justifies the means” is a frank acknowledgment that the means” do not measure up to God’s standard. It’s an admission that we are choosing to use methods which we know God does not approve of, albeit for a worthy end He does approve. So we’re using the world to save people. Is that not a blatant spiritual contradiction?

Conformity Ensnares

The only way for us not to appear to be hypocrites is if we actually do like those worldly methods. After all, is it wrong to be “innovative,” “modern,” and “multi-cultural”? But in fact, Inspiration warns us that flirting with the world leads to love of the world: “Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ.” GC 509.

Satan’s Bait and Switch

Men, “professing themselves to be wise, . . . became fools.” Can we not see the snare Satan has laid for us in this drive to “grow” our churches in these ways? We certainly are warned of his attacks; why have we not been more vigilant? The early church was certainly watchful for any inroads in the purity of the message and practice: “Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” 2 Cor 2:11.

We offer stimulating worships to attract people to our churches. It is allegedly not that we really agree with the excitement or the methods, as our position has been that the noble end justifies the means, however questionable. We sincerely want to save souls. But here’s Satan’s bait-and-switch. Here’s the trap we’ve walked right into:

“Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ.”

When we find our “Christian rock” concerts, our dancing ministries, our exciting worship hours, our de-emphasis of the strict health message, our seeker-sensitive services actually work to interest more people in our church, and even lead to their attendance on Sabbath, why would we want to discontinue what is so successful? So there’s no end to the bait, and we never get around to the switch to more godly actions and messages. Over time and generations, what was once a “means to an end” becomes entrenched in the church’s identity and becomes well-nigh impossible to rout out. What was temporary becomes habitual. We may be near that point already.

Rather than being a peculiar, holy people, we’re on that train with the rest of the world. Satan is the conductor on that train, and it’s headed nowhere but destruction. EW 88-89. Rather than being a distinctive witness for our Lord, I fear our church is just like other churches in many respects. We are choosing the “things of this world,” heedless of the Bible’s clear warning: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” Romans 12:2. How can we—
or visitors-turned-attendees—become transformed while deliberately choosing conformity? We deceive only ourselves. Satan gloats while God grieves. Oh, brothers and sisters, we have strayed from the side of our Lord.

Inconsistent Witness

Now, we may claim that once the visitors start coming to church, we can invite them to weekly Bible studies. Yet is it not hypocritical to pretend to be one way during the more public worship hour then another way during Bible study? In the former, we’re “excited and active and forward-thinking and culturally relevant,” and in the latter, we’re serious and focused on understanding that big Book and placing our interests altogether in the next world. We say we’re in the solemn Day of Atonement and that our probations could close at any moment, but in the next breath we say, “Let’s have fun! Come to our exciting services! See? Adventists aren’t stuffy or strange; we’re just like you!” And so we are.

Caught in the Snare

Inspiration gives a clear warning: “You cannot mingle with worldlings, and partake of their spirit, and follow their example, and be at the same time a child of God.” 2 T 44 (italics added). We think we’re going to change those poor souls—a little later, during those Bible studies and evangelistic events—but instead, our church is the one being changed. Our foe has outwitted us, as we have chosen to stray too close to evil. How many, once stepping into the snare, can free themselves, even if they recognize their danger? How many will remain trapped by pride or worldly pleasures that have become part of their characters?

What Now?

In the Willow Creek study, the “seeker-sensitive” methods have now been exposed as based entirely on false premises; the results have not led to Bible understanding and spiritual growth. People were not fed, and were still hungry for God. So what is Seventh-day Adventism going to do with that knowledge regarding our own churches?

As always, we are to seek the Lord’s counsel. There is no surer guide. “There are many devices in a man’s heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.” Prov 19:21.

And what is that counsel, for all to read? “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” 2 Tim 4:1-2.

Over time and generations, what was once a “means to an end” becomes entrenched in the church’s identity....

Proclaim Truth for This Time

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, meaning with increasing power, as we approach the great final test. The present truth for this time comprises the messages, the third angel’s message succeeding the first and the second. The presentation of this message with all it embraces is our work. We stand as the remnant people in these last days to promulgate the truth and swell the cry of the third angel’s wonderful distinct message, giving the trumpet a certain sound. Eternal truth, which we must labor to become a unit, to be holy in life and pure in character. Let those who profess to be servants of the living God no longer bow down to the idol of men’s opinions, no longer be slaves to any shameful lust, no longer bring a polluted offering to the Lord, a stained soul.” TM 470-1.

More than Alms

At the gate of the temple, a lame man begged alms of Peter and John. That man was not given what he wanted. He was given what he needed—the power of Christ in his life. What was the result?

He stood up and walked into the temple with them, “praising God” and witnessing to His love and mercy. “And all the people saw him walking and praising God.” Acts 3:1-9. That would not have happened had he been given only alms. That’s the result of having spiritual needs met.

I believe we have been setting our sights too low, relying on our own ideas of how to win souls to Christ, but it is not too late to remedy that. Brothers and sisters, let us together seek pardon from our Lord for following our ideas of how to win souls to Christ, but it is not too late to remedy that. Brothers and sisters, let us together seek pardon from our Lord for following our own or others’ opinions, and recommit to the sacred work we have been entrusted to do in these times. Our duty is clear; our privilege a high and holy one. By God’s grace, there is yet time to be that “city set on a hill.”

Jean Handwerk, a former teacher, writes from Delaware.
Misrepresentation of God’s Character

It is Satan’s constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law and gives men license to sin. At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. By perverted conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity; and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry.

The Roman Catholic Church, uniting the forms of paganism and Christianity, and, like paganism, misrepresenting the character of God, has resorted to practices no less cruel and revolting. In the days of Rome’s supremacy there were instruments of torture to compel assent to her doctrines. There was the stake for those who would not concede to her claims. There were massacres on a scale that will never be known until revealed in the judgment. Dignitaries of the church studied, under Satan their master, to invent means to cause the greatest possible torture and not end the life of the victim. In many cases the infernal process was repeated to the utmost limit of human endurance, until nature gave up the struggle, and the sufferer hailed death as a sweet release.

Even Romanists Wretched

Such was the fate of Rome’s opponents. For her adherents she had the discipline of the scourge, of famishing hunger, of bodily austerities in every conceivable, heart-sickening form. To secure the favor of Heaven, penitents violated the laws of God by violating Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today.
the laws of nature. They were taught to sunder the ties which He has formed to bless and gladden man’s earthly sojourn. The churchyard contains millions of victims who spent their lives in vain endeavors to subdue their natural affections, to repress, as offensive to God, every thought and feeling of sympathy with their fellow creatures.

If we desire to understand the determined cruelty of Satan, manifested for hundreds of years, not among those who never heard of God, but in the very heart and throughout the extent of Christendom, we have only to look at the history of Romanism. Through this mammoth system of deception the prince of evil achieves his purpose of bringing dishonor to God and wretchedness to man. And as we see how he succeeds in disguising himself and accomplishing his work through the leaders of the church, we may better understand why he has so great antipathy to the Bible. If that Book is read, the mercy and love of God will be revealed; it will be seen that He lays upon men none of these heavy burdens. All that He asks is a broken and contrite heart, a humble, obedient spirit.

**Christ’s Example vs Pope’s**

Christ gives no example in His life for men and women to shut themselves in monasteries in order to become fitted for heaven. He has never taught that love and sympathy must be repressed. The Saviour’s heart overflowed with love. The nearer man approaches to moral perfection, the keener is his perception of sin, and the deeper his sympathy for the afflicted. The pope claims to be the vicar of Christ; but how does his character bear comparison with that of our Saviour? Was Christ ever known to consign men to the prison or the rack because they did not pay Him homage as the King of heaven? Was His voice heard condemning to death those who did not accept Him? When He was slighted by the people of a Samaritan village, the apostle John was filled with indignation, and inquired: “Lord, wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?” Jesus looked with pity upon His disciple, and rebuked his harsh spirit, saying: “The Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” Luke 9:54, 56. How different from the spirit manifested by Christ is that of His professed vicar.

**Rome Unchanged, Still Cruel**

The Roman Church now presents a fair front to the world, covering with apologies her record of horrible cruelties. She has clothed herself in Christ-like garments; but she is unchanged. Every principle of the papacy that existed in past ages exists today. The doctrines devised in the darkest ages are still held. Let none deceive themselves. The papacy that Protestants are now so ready to honor is the same that ruled the world in the days of the Reformation, when men of God stood up, at the peril of their lives, to expose her iniquity. She possesses the same pride and arrogant assumption that lorded it over kings and princes, and claimed the prerogatives of God. Her spirit is no less cruel and despotic now than when she crushed out human liberty and slew the saints of the Most High.

The papacy is just what prophecy declared that she would be, the apostasy of the latter times. 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4. It is a part of her policy to assume the character which will best accomplish her purpose; but beneath the variable appearance of the chameleon she conceals the invariable venom of the serpent. “Faith ought not to be kept with heretics, nor persons suspected of heresy” (Lenfant, volume 1, page 516), she declares. Shall this power, whose record for a thousand years is written in the blood of the saints, be now acknowledged as a part of the church of Christ?

**Protestantism’s Weaknesses**

It is not without reason that the claim has been put forth in Protestant countries that Catholicism differs less widely from Protestantism than in former times. There has been a change; but the change is not in the papacy. Catholicism indeed resembles much of the Protestantism that now exists, because Protestantism has so greatly degenerated since the days of the Reformers.

As the Protestant churches have been seeking the favor of the world, false charity has blinded their eyes. They do not see but that it is right to believe good of all evil, and as the inevitable result they will finally believe evil of all good. Instead of standing in defense of the faith once delivered to the saints, they are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their uncharitable opinion of her, begging pardon for their bigotry.

A large class, even of those who look upon Romanism with no favor, appre-
A prayerful study of the Bible would show Protestants the real character of the papacy and would cause them to abhor and to shun it; but many are so wise in their own conceit that they feel no need of humbly seeking God that they may be led into the truth. Although priding themselves on their enlightenment, they are ignorant both of the Scriptures and of the power of God. They must have some means of quieting their consciences, and they seek that which is least spiritual and humiliating. What they desire is a method of forgetting God which shall pass as a method of remembering Him. The papacy is well adapted to meet the wants of all these. It is prepared for two Passages as a method of remembering Him.

A day of great intellectual darkness has been shown to be favorable to the success of the papacy. It will yet be demonstrated that a day of great intellectual light is equally favorable for its success. In past ages, when men were without God's word and without the knowledge of the truth, their eyes were blindfolded, and thousands were ensnared, not seeing the net spread for their feet. In this generation there are many whose eyes become dazzled by the glare of human speculations, “science falsely so called;” they discern not the net, and walk into it as readily as if blindfolded. God designed that man’s intellectual powers should be held as a gift from his Maker and should be employed in the service of truth and righteousness; but when pride and ambition are cherished, and men exalt their own theories above the word of God, then intelligence can accomplish greater harm than ignorance. Thus the false science of the present day, which undermines faith in the Bible, will prove as successful in preparing the way for the acceptance of the papacy, with its pleasing forms, as did the withholding of knowledge in opening the way for its aggrandizement in the Dark Ages.

Traditions Trump God’s Law

In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to this movement is the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance—a custom which originated with Rome, and which she claims as the sign of her authority. It is the spirit of the papacy—the spirit of conformity to worldly customs, the veneration for human traditions above the commandments of God—that is permeating the Protestant churches and leading them on to do the same work of Sunday exaltation which the papacy has done before them.

Rome and Resistance

If the reader would understand the agencies to be employed in the soon-coming contest, he has but to trace the record of the means which Rome employed for the same object in ages past. If he would know how papists and Protestants united will deal with those who reject their dogmas, let him see the spirit which Rome manifested toward the Sabbath and its defenders.

Royal edicts, general councils, and church ordinances sustained by secular power were the steps by which the pagan festival attained its position of honor in the Christian world. The first public measure enforcing Sunday observance was the law enacted by Constantine. (A.D. 321; see Appendix note for page 53.) This edict required townspeople to rest on “the venerable day of the sun,” but permitted countrymen to continue their agricultural pursuits. Though virtually a heathen statute, it was enforced by the emperor after his nominal acceptance of Christianity.

The royal mandate not proving a sufficient substitute for divine authority, Eusebius, a bishop who sought the favor of princes, and who was the special friend and flatterer of Constantine, advanced the claim that Christ had transferred the Sabbath to Sunday. Not a single testimony of the Scriptures was produced in proof of the new doctrine. Eusebius himself unwittingly acknowledges its falsity and points to the real authors of the change. “All things,” he says, “whatever that it was duty to do on the Sabbath, these we have transferred to the Lord’s Day.”—Robert Cox, Sabbath Laws and Sabbath Duties, page 538. But the Sunday argument, groundless as it was, served to embolden men in trampling upon the Sabbath of the Lord. All who desired to be honored by the world accepted the popular festival. Great Controversy, 569-574.

To be continued.

Ellen G. White, 1827-1915, received the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the fruits of her life and work accord with the biblical tests of a true messenger of God. To this day, her counsels are an incalculable blessing to God’s people around the world.
CAFFEINE

& MIND CONTROL

“From triple-shot lattes to Red Bull to Ritalin, Americans are more wired than ever.”

Why does this matter to Christians? To Seventh-day Adventists?

Satanic Snare

“Satan is taking the world captive through the use of liquor and tobacco, tea and coffee. The God-given mind, which should be kept clear, is perverted by the use of narcotics. The brain is no longer able to distinguish correctly. The enemy has control. Man has sold his reason for that which makes him mad. He has no sense of what is right.”

Evangelism, 529.

Who has control of our minds? How about the minds of our children? What about the minds of those we are trying to reach with the gospel?

Stimulants are getting our attention. Even health professionals are beginning to sit up and take notice of the ever-increasing desire of people, especially the young, for caffeinated beverages. It has taken the United States, and the world, by storm. What is going on?

Here is an example: “Linleigh Hawk starts the day at 5:30 a.m. by downing her first cup of coffee. She then stops at Starbucks for a grande vanilla skim latte on the way to Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, MD, where she’s a senior. At 3:00 p.m., it’s time for a jumbo iced tea to power her through hip-hop dance rehearsals and yearbook meetings. Homework, which often keeps her up past 1 a.m., requires more coffee.”

Think this is just one person in just one situation in just one place? It isn’t. The article goes on.........

“Hawk may sound like an anomaly, but she isn’t. Overworked and sleep-deprived Americans young and old so crave a buzz these days that even alcoholic drinks come loaded with caffeine, and doctors are getting worried. In the past three years alone, the number of 18-to-24-year-olds who drink coffee daily has doubled, from 16 percent to 31 percent – and some of them go on to pop prescription stimulants such as Adderall or Ritalin for late-night study sessions.”

Caffeine a Narcotic

Thirty-one percent of young people drink coffee daily, and interestingly, the report states that some go on to higher forms of drugs. Seems like we were told that very thing many years ago:

“Tea and coffee drinking is a sin, an injurious indulgence, which, like other evils, injures the soul.” Ibid., 425.

Tea and coffee drinking injure the soul! See why Satan loves to get us hooked on these things? It is so much more than simply a bad habit.

“Tea, coffee, tobacco, and alcohol we must present as sinful indulgences.” Selected Messages, Book 3, 287; Last Day Events, 81.

Long-term Effects

The world is beginning to wake up and wonder if all of this “caffeine consumption” is good for us or not ……and guess what? They do not know!

“Since scientists have never studied how caffeine affects growing bodies and brains, children who go through the day guzzling soda after iced tea after energy drink are serving as tiny
guinea pigs. ‘This is something that nobody is looking at carefully,’ says Nora Volkow, a psychiatrist who directs the National Institute on Drug Abuse. ‘We really have no idea how it affects development long term.’”

Well, we know what the long-term effects are. God, in His wonderful mercy and love has given us plenty of counsel on the subject.

“Coffee is a hurtful indulgence. It temporarily excites the mind to unwonted [out of the ordinary] action, but the after-effect is exhaustion, prostration, paralysis of the mental, moral, and physical powers. The mind becomes enervated, [lacking strength or vigor] and unless through determined effort the habit is overcome, the activity of the brain is permanently lessened.” Christian Temperance & Bible Hygiene, 34.

“UNLESS...THE HABIT IS OVERCOME, THE ACTIVITY OF THE BRAIN IS PERMANENTLY LESSENED.”

Did you catch that last point? The activity of the brain is “permanently lessened” unless the “habit” is overcome!

This is from coffee! Caffeinated beverages! This is not referring to cocaine, to marijuana, to other types of drugs we normally think of as having this effect. It’s coffee!

And not just coffee! “Tea is poisonous to the system. Christians should let it alone. The influence of coffee is in a degree the same as tea, but the effect upon the system is still worse. Its influence is exciting, and just in the degree that it elevates above par, it will exhaust and bring prostration below par. Tea and coffee drinkers carry the marks upon their faces. The skin becomes sallow, and assumes a lifeless appearance. The glow of health is not seen upon the countenance.” Counsels on Diet and Foods, 421.

God has told us, over 100 years ago, that the effects of coffee and tea are injurious and will cause, not might cause, “paralysis of the mental, moral, and physical powers”! Well, who wants us to have diminished mental, moral and physical powers, especially in these last days? The devil!

“Satan’s influence is constantly exerted upon men to distract the senses, control the mind for evil, and incite to violence and crime. He weakens the body, darkens the intellect, and debases the soul.” Desire of Ages, 341.

Please note the progression of events here. First distract, then control!

First the devil weakens, then he darkens, then he debases!

Do you see the devil’s plan here? He wants to destroy our souls! And all he has to do is get us to do what God has warned us against.

He knows, better than anyone, that if God says not to do it, there is an extremely good reason for it.

“Needful” Caffeine’s “Fix”

But many argue that they need coffee and tea to keep them energized throughout the day.

“‘I can’t go out and keep up with these 20-year-olds without it,’ says Jeremy Freer, a 29-year-old music teacher from Virginia Beach, VA, of his Saturday night beverage of choice: vodka with Red Bull. (Partiers can opt instead for the new double expresso-double caffeinated Van Gogh vodka or a Bud Extra, a caffeinated beer.)”

They are putting caffeine in beer!

Now many in the church may not drink alcohol, but they have the same attitude as the teacher quoted above..... they need it! They can’t “keep up” without it.

But what does Inspiration say? “Those who resort to tea and coffee for stimulation to labor, will feel the evil effects of this course in trembling nerves and lack of self-control. Tired nerves need rest and quiet. Nature needs time to recuperate her exhausted energies. But if her forces are goaded on by the use of stimulants, there is, whenever this process is repeated, a lessening of real force. For a time more may be accomplished under the unnatural stimulus, but gradually it becomes more difficult to rouse the energies to the desired point, and at last exhausted nature can no longer respond.” Christian Temperance & Bible Hygiene, 35.

The devil wants to wear everybody out. We are easier to “catch” then. poisons the nervous system is excited; and in some cases, for the time being, the intellect seems to be invigorated, the imagination more vivid. Because these stimulants produce such agreeable results, many conclude that they really need them; but there is always a reaction. The nervous system has borrowed power from its future resources for present use, and all this temporary invigoration is followed by a corresponding depression. The suddenness

COFFEE CAUSES “PARALYSIS OF THE MENTAL, MORAL, AND PHYSICAL POWERS.”

Why are people habitually sick? Why do we seem to catch every bug that comes around? Why is everyone worried about the flu? Our energies are being exhausted; our physical powers are being paralyzed!

Poisonous! “Tea and coffee produce an immediate effect. Under the influence of these...
of the relief obtained from tea and coffee is an evidence that what seems to be strength is only nervous excitement, and consequently must be an injury to the system.” Child Guidance, 403.

She calls tea and coffee “poison”! Think that is a bit extreme?

“Poison control centers and emergency room doctors report increasing numbers of people suffering from the rapid heartbeat and nausea of a caffeine overdose – like the 14-year-old boy who earlier this year showed up at a Minneapolis emergency room in respiratory distress after washing down caffeine pills with energy drinks so he could play video games all night.”

Prophetic, isn’t it? See why the devil hates Ellen White’s writings so much? The devil uses the reasoning that you “feel better” when you drink coffee and tea and it “appears” that he is telling the truth, but in the end, as always, he is found out to be the liar God said he was.

“... He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” John 8:44.

Coffee, Tea are Intoxicants

“The action of coffee and many other popular drinks is similar. The first effect is exhilarating. The nerves of the stomach are excited; these convey irritation to the brain, and this in turn is aroused to impart increased action to the heart and short-lived energy to the entire system. Fatigue is forgotten; the strength seems to be increased. The intellect is aroused, the imagination becomes more vivid.

“Because of these results, many suppose that their tea or coffee is doing them great good. But this is a mistake. Tea and coffee do not nourish the system. Their effect is produced before there has been time for digestion and assimilation, and what seems to be strength is only nervous excitement. When the influence of the stimulant is gone, the unnatural force abates, and the result is a corresponding degree of languor and debility.” Counsels for the Church, 104.

Tea and coffee produces “intoxication.” Next time an Adventist tells you he doesn’t “drink” because drinking is sinful, ask him if he drinks coffee or tea. Intoxication is intoxication.

Debilitating Effects

Tea and coffee causes “languor and debility,” we are told. Webster’s defines languor as “a feeling of lack of interest or energy” or “showing an unusual lack of energy.” This is the devil’s way— to tempt you to do something, telling you that you will become energetic, but actually causes you to become listless, tired and sluggish, thereby increasing the need for the tempting beverage, and the poor hapless soul continues in the downward spiral until he (the devil) has ruined you— body, mind and soul.

“THE ACTION OF COFFEE AND MANY OTHER POPULAR DRINKS IS SIMILAR.”

Notice in the quote earlier that the action of coffee and “many other popular drinks” is similar. This is absolutely prophetic!

Jordan, a sixth-grader says “lots of kids in his sixth-grade class pull Monster or Rock Star energy drinks out of their backpacks and drink them before PE class.”

A sixth-grader! Satan loves to get them young!

Caffeine in Familiar Form

Here is a chart from U.S. News and World Report revealing how much caffeine there is in several different products:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Serving Size</th>
<th>Caffeine Per Serving (MG)</th>
<th>Caffeine Per oz. (MG)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hershey’s Special Dark Chocolate</td>
<td>1.45 oz.</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pepsi</td>
<td>12 oz.</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunkist Orange Soda</td>
<td>12 oz.</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>3.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starbucks Frappuccino</td>
<td>9.5 oz.</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>9.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Bull</td>
<td>8.3 oz.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>9.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monster</td>
<td>8 oz.</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>10.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enviga Green Tea</td>
<td>12 oz.</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>8.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Throttle</td>
<td>16 oz.</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>8.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starbucks Brewed Coffee</td>
<td>12 oz.</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>16.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine Energy Drink</td>
<td>8.4 oz.</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>33.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Intention to Deceive, Control**

Please remember, it is the devil's plan to take over our minds and deceive us all.

“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” Revelation 12:9.

“For thousands of years Satan has been gaining an experience in learning how to deceive; and to those who live in this age he comes with almost overwhelming power.” Counsels on Health, 290.

This is so important! Stan has been gaining experience, over six thousand years, in learning how to deceive! A six thousand year education! All to deceive and control you and me.

He wants control of our minds, and he is doing all in his power to achieve that result.

**Serving Satan**

“The battle is between truth and the love of the world. Which will obtain the victory? Will they suffer Jesus to captivate the heart, or will they let Satan control the mind and crowd out the love of truth, so that the angels receive the charge, ‘They are joined to their idols, let them alone.’” Manuscript Re­leases, Vol. 15, 327.

Do you see how important even a seemingly small thing like a cup of tea or coffee can be?

“But every indulgence in sin weakens the soul; it welcomes Satan to come in and control the mind, making the individual his effectual servant.” Signs of the Times, March 27, 1884.

We welcome Satan to come in and control us whenever we drink coffee or tea or other caffeinated beverages. I never thought about it like that, have you?

“Satan has long been preparing for his final effort to deceive the world.” Great Controversy, 1888, 562.

All of these devices are the devil’s tools to sweep into his ranks all those who will not stay aware and prepared. And he’s had six thousand years to practice on us!

“Satan is ever seeking to impress and control the mind, and none of us are safe except as we have a constant connection with God. We must momentari­ly receive supplies from heaven, and if we would be kept by the power of God we must be obedient to all His require­ments.” Testimonies, Vol. 4, 542.

**Power of Bad Example**

I would like to end with a personal experience. Many years ago I was visit­ing with my daughter, who was attending school at a Seventh-day Adventist boarding academy in Tennessee. We had gone to the mall somewhere and to my shock, she came out of the store with a cappuccino in her hands. I couldn’t believe it! I asked her what she was doing!

She had no clue why I was asking her that question, or what it was I was asking about. I said, “The cappuccino!”

She said, “What about it?” I told her that Seventh-day Adventists don’t drink coffee.

“That is ridiculous,” she said, “It can’t be. The teachers here at the academy take us students out and buy them for us. If it were wrong or bad, they would surely never buy them for them­selves, much less us students.”

Some of you parents who have raised your children as Seventh-day Adventists will appreciate my horror at being told this. Here my child is telling me that there is nothing wrong with it because her teachers do it and buy it. Obviously, she should have consulted the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy before making that declaration, but the fact remains that this issue of coffee drinking is not considered the taboo that it once was.

Can you see how subtly the devil has invaded our ranks, and especially the youth? Remember, this is not to get them to do something wrong per se; this is to be able to more easily control their minds!

“Very Elect” Not Deceived

It was Jesus Himself who stated that there would be many people, trying to deceive us.

“For there shall arise false Chris­ts, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” Matthew 24:24.

Praise the Lord, it is not possible that the “very elect” can be deceived!

But… do you think the “very elect” will be drinking tea or coffee?

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2 Ibid., 62.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
6 Ibid., 65.
7 Ibid.
Daniel 11:41 “He shall enter into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, Moab, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon.”

11:41 HE shall ENTER . . .
As in verse forty, “enter” means “to besiege” or “to surround.” The time and place of that action will be explained to the reader’s satisfaction immediately after it is established who and what the glorious land is that “He” (Rome) is to enter.

11:41 . . . ALSO . . .
In Daniel 11:41-42, the word “also” (the Hebrew word gam) has been used by some for a foundation to build upon, but this word does not exist in the original Hebrew in either verse. The translators have supplied it.

11:41 . . . into THE GLORIOUS LAND . . .

Bible Hermeneutics
Daniel 11:41 tells us “He [Rome] shall enter into the glorious land.” The glorious land has met with much unnecessary conjecture as to its Biblical identity, all stemming from neglecting to follow the guidelines of Biblical hermeneutics. The glorious land has many different terms or titles, as we are to see, but only one identity. Such is the case of the Lord Jesus Christ, having many different titles, for He performs many different roles, but He is only one Lord. His identity never changes.

Only by following correct Biblical hermeneutics or guidelines can one hope to identify the symbols correctly and thus interpret the text aright. We demonstrated one of those principles in our previous issue, showing how the things of God before the cross are always taken in a literal and local sense and, after the cross, in a symbolic or spiritual, worldwide sense. For example, in Daniel 10:14 and 11:14, we interpret “thy people” as meaning the literal Jews, and rightly so. But in Daniel 12:1, we interpret “thy people” as the saints of God, born-again Christians, spiritual Israel, the worldwide Christian Church at the very end of probationary time. In another instance, Paul explained that after the cross a Jew is not someone who is such merely by birth, but a Jew is the person who is circumcised or renewed in heart. This is the born-again Christian. He or she has become a spiritual Jew. The term “Jew” under this present dispensation now has a spiritual, worldwide application, but its identity never changes.

The same principle applies to the literal city Jerusalem, which is now interpreted and understood to mean spiritual, worldwide Jerusalem, the Christian Church, but once again its identity never changes. And the principle with Babylon is the same, as well. After the cross Babylon is no longer understood and confined to a literal, local, geographical location. No, Babylon, like the Jew and Jerusalem, is understood as spiritual, worldwide Babylon. In like manner, the same Biblical hermeneutical principle applies to the King of the South as well as to the King of the North and others. Before the cross: literal, local. After the cross: spiritual, worldwide. After the second coming: literal, local (the thousand-year millennium is literally 1000 years), but their identity never changes.

Louis F. Were illustrates this principal quite correctly:
“There is no change in the phraseology employed in the New Testament, but there is positively a change regarding the people to whom those prophecies and designations now apply. In the New Testament, the church is spoken of in the language employed in the Old Testament concerning Israel.” The Moral Purpose of Prophecy, 30.

Another illustration that will serve us well is found in the Old Testament. Israel is referred to as “the people of the

The “glorious land,” the “land of milk and honey,” the “goodly land.”
Lord,” not the land of the Lord, because Israel is a term used for the church, as we will shortly demonstrate.

“And Moses and the priests the Levites spake unto all Israel, saying, Take heed, and hearken, O Israel; this day thou art become the people of the LORD thy God.” Deut 27:9.

Other Terms for “Glorious Land”

We shall view some of the terms employed in the Old Testament representing the church of Israel, but first we must ask ourselves what Daniel understood the “glorious land” to be. Did he consider it the realm of the church, or perhaps the USA? What is the truth of this matter? Let us proceed then to disclose the true identity of the glorious land, for without its Biblical identity we cannot know what the King of the North is to “enter.” Our first step is to see if Daniel has previously used the phrase. We find that he has—in the very same chapter.

Daniel 11:16 “But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hands shall be consumed.” (See margin KJV for terms used for the same entity: the land of ornament or goodly. Compare margin of Daniel 11:41—goodly land, land of delight, or, ornament. More on this later.)

The precise terminology, “the glorious land,” as found in the Bible, is found only in Daniel 11:16, 41. Although no closer yet to a definition, we nevertheless find Ezekiel using almost identical language for the same symbol, thus revealing a definitive clue for our identification:

“In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands.” Ezekiel 20:6.

Canaan: Land of Milk and Honey

What is the land of “milk and honey,” which is the glory of all lands or, as we will see, the “glorious land”? “The people rejoiced that they were to come into possession of so goodly a land, and they listened intently as the report was brought to Moses, that not a word should escape them. “We came unto the land whither thou sentest us,” the spies began, “and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.” The people were enthusiastic; they would eagerly obey the voice of the Lord and go up at once to possess the land. But after describing the beauty and fertility of the land, all but two of the spies enlarged upon the difficulties and dangers that lay before the Israelites should they undertake the conquest of Canaan.” Patriarchs and Prophets, 387-8.

Plainly, Canaan is the land of “milk and honey,” the glory of all lands. However, Ellen White left with us a distinct clue supporting the link of “the glorious land” of Daniel 11:16, 41 to Canaan, the land of “milk and honey.” While she never used the specific term “the glorious land,” she did use its equivalent “the goodly land,” which we read in the marginal readings of Daniel 11:16, 41. What then does this connection imply? Let us allow Ellen White to explain this herself as we share with the reader two quotes that will give us our definitive definition beyond doubt:

“And David looked around him upon the costly buildings of cedar, the homes of the inhabitants settled in the goodly land of Canaan, and conceived the idea that a temple should be built, more worthy for the residence of God. The site of the building was indicated and the most complete instructions were given, and Solomon entered upon the great work.” Manuscript Releases, Vol. 3, 230.

“I have tried to bring back a good report and a few grapes from the heavenly Canaan, for which many would stone me, as the congregation bade stone Caleb and Joshua for their report. (Num. 14:10.) But I declare to you, my brethren and sisters in the Lord, it is a goodly land, and we are well able to go up and possess it.” Early Writings, 14.

From these two quotes we have the “goodly land” of Canaan directly connected to the temple here on the earth (Jerusalem) and the other one in heaven (Jerusalem). Paul eliminates any confusion by stating that the church on earth and the church in heaven are one and the same church:

“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an enumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.” Hebrews 12:22-23.

Inspiration Agrees With Scripture

Ellen White is in total agreement with Paul. Notice the following statements:
Believers on the earth and those who have never fallen in heaven are one church.” Manuscript Releases, Vol. 9, 91.

The church is God’s fortress. His city of refuge, which He holds in a revolted world. Any betrayal of the church is treachery to Him who has bought mankind with the blood of His only-begotten Son. From the beginning, faithful souls have constituted the church on earth. In every age the Lord has had His watchmen, who have borne a faithful testimony to the generation in which they lived. These sentinels gave the message of warning; and when they were called to lay off their armor, others took up the work. God brought these witnesses into covenant relation with Himself, uniting the church on earth with the church in heaven. He has sent forth His angels to minister to His church, and the gates of hell have not been able to prevail against His people.”Acts of the Apostles, 11.

With a “thus saith the Lord” firmly established for those terms examined in Daniel 11:16 and 41, we have represented and established a clear definition for “the glorious land.” It is the church of Christ.

In Prophecy, “City” Denotes “Church”

Further support for this interpretation is forthcoming. However, we need now to look at another term used in conjunction with Christ’s church. Please note that Paul refers to the church, the heavenly Jerusalem, as a city. What does a city denote in prophecy? A church!

“But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty [and] two months.” Rev.11:2.

The seventh volume of the Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, page 560, tells us more about spiritual Jerusalem: “Sion. Or, ‘Zion,’ a poetic name for Jerusalem (see on Ps. 48:2; cf. Heb. 12:22).”

“Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.” Ps. 48:2.

Palestine

In chapter 8, Daniel introduces another aspect for our understanding in his use of the phrase “the pleasant land:” “And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.” Dan. 8:9.

Jeremiah uses the same term: “But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.” Jer 3:19.

The “pleasant land,” a “goodly heritage,” is none other than a term for Palestine.
that the church of the Old Testament was a theocracy, and it extended to the borders of Palestine. “The children of Israel were to occupy all the territory which God appointed them.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 290. “Thus the whole land, under God’s control, would become an object lesson of spiritual truth.” Ibid., 289. The term Palestine was exclusively used in connection with the Jews.

“There are those who hold that the Sabbath was given only for the Jews; but God has never said this. He committed the Sabbath to his people Israel as a sacred trust; but the very fact that the desert of Sinai, and not Palestine, was the place selected by him in which to proclaim his law, reveals that he intended it for all mankind. The law of ten commandments is as old as creation. Therefore the Sabbath institution has no special relation to the Jews, any more than to all other created beings.” Review and Herald, August 30, 1898.

“It may be surprising to some that Christ’s work was confined to so small a circumference, that it was not extended to the heathen nations surrounding Palestine. But the heathen nations were not prepared for his work. And had he devoted his time to the conversion of the Gentile world, he would have closed the door whereby he could bear his message to the Jewish nation.” Signs of the Times, December 16, 1897.

“We find further confirmation with these quotations: ‘Paul’s great object in visiting Jerusalem was to conciliate the church of Palestine.’ Sketches from the Life of Paul, 214.

“The disciples were to begin their work by publishing the great truths of Christianity in the metropolis of Palestine, and from Jerusalem they were to go to all parts of the world.” Manuscript Releases, Vol. 12, 307.

“In the past the labors of the apostles had been put forth wholly in Palestine. Round this place their hopes had clustered. They regarded the Jews as the covenant people of God.” Youth Instructor, November 15, 1900.

This segment of our study brings to light the fact that in no uncertain terms is any person authorized to give a new meaning to a term whose definition is already clearly established in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. To say that the glorious land and/or goodly land is the United States of America is to ignore the hermeneutical principle laid down for us by the scriptures and Inspiration. To step off this platform, we believe, would open the floodgates of speculation and, in fact, it has, causing many to be misled. We cannot say the glorious land and/or the goodly land in Daniel 11:16 represents the Jews, God’s people, His church; and then say the same symbol in Daniel 11:41 now represents the United States of America, a civil entity. We are not at liberty to change the identity of a heaven-defined symbol, brothers and sisters. We may only define its literal or spiritual application. Changing the identity would be confusion compounded. Let us stay within the parameters of that which is defined in the scriptures, for therein lies our only safety and due course.

Why “Glorious”?

Next month we will consider, among the different terms used to designate God’s church, why heaven uses the term “glorious” in the book of Daniel to define His last-day church. We suggest this term is bristling with significance for us.

1 It is interesting to note that in the Old Testament the noun “milk” is translated to designate “an office, a position, a place. It is used of the placement and service of a group of people…. It is used of positions held by a group of people… or a single individual.” Warren Baker and Eugene Carpenter, The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament, 644.

2 The Jews were regarded as the covenant people of God because “to this people were committed the oracles of God.” Christ’s Object Lessons, 287.

Heidi Heiks, editor of Our Firm Foundation magazine, has been a college educator, an author, and a radio speaker for The People of the Book radio program. He continues to write and is currently a teacher and speaker for Hope International throughout the United States.
“Satan cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God.”
“Satan knows that those who ask God for pardon and grace will obtain it...” PK 586. Can you imagine this? Satan, the being that is the most sinful of all created beings, knows that our prayerful request for pardon and grace will be granted. The Spirit of Prophecy is inspired by God. It plainly says “if we ask for pardon and grace we will obtain it.”

**Blinding Our Minds**

How is it that the devil knows this truth, and we don’t understand it ourselves in our personal walk with God? “In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Corinthians 4:4.

In order for us not to understand the glorious gospel of Christ, the devil has to blind our minds. The devil knows that “goodness of God leadeth” us (Romans 2:4) to repentance because he has experienced the love of God. “Lucifer in heaven had sinned in the light of God’s glory. To him as to no other created being was given a revelation of God’s love...” DA 761. If we really understood the goodness of God, we would run to Him.

How does Satan blind us? “Satan is exultant when he can lead the children of God into unbelief and despondency. He delights to see us mistrusting God, doubting His willingness and power to save us. He loves to have us feel that the Lord will do us harm by His providences. It is the work of Satan to represent the Lord as lacking in compassion and pity. He misstates the truth in regard to Him. He fills the imagination with false ideas concerning God; and instead of dwelling upon the truth in regard to our heavenly Father, we too often fix our minds upon the misrepresentations of Satan and dishonor God by distrusting Him and murmuring against Him.” STC 116.

“Too often” we are in danger of dwelling--not on the nature of Christ, but on the nature of Satan--every time we believe that God will not give us pardon and grace, for the devil “is a liar and the father of lies.” John 8:44. “With his [Satan’s] own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men.” DA 22.

**Danger of Dwelling on Failure**

How do misrepresentations of God cause us to fall? “The adversary seeks continually to obstruct the way to the mercy seat, that we may not by earnest supplication and faith obtain grace and power to resist temptation.” STC 95. Any time we don’t believe that we can have God’s mercy, our way to the mercy seat is obstructed, and we become deceived. We have no power to resist temptation without God’s mercy and are led into sin. Satan “hopes so to destroy their faith that they will yield fully to his temptations, and turn from their allegiance to God.” COL 168. The Bible declares that God’s “mercy endureth for ever.” Psalms 107:1. If the Bible says that, how does the devil lead us to believe that we cannot obtain it?

“When the mind dwells upon self, it is turned away from Christ, the source of strength and life. Hence it is Satan’s constant effort to keep the attention diverted from the Saviour and thus prevent the union and communion of the soul with Christ.” STC 71. Satan “endeavors to affright their souls with the thought that their case is hopeless, that the stain of their defilement can never be washed away.” Ibid., 168.

“Satan determined to put forth still further effort to weaken and discourage God’s people by holding before them their imperfections of character.” PK 582. When we believe that our sins can never be washed away, our faith is being destroyed. When that is happening, what do we fail to do?

“Satan knows that those who ask God for pardon and grace will obtain it....”

“There is no danger that the Lord will neglect the prayers of His people. The danger is that in temptation and trial they will become discouraged, and fail to persevere in prayer.” COL 175.

“Satan knows that those who ask God for pardon and grace will obtain it...” PK 586. But if we do not ask God for pardon and grace, we will never have victory. Therefore, the devil does his utmost to keep our attention on his misrepresentations of God so we will never overcome sin. Our strength lies in asking God for His pardon and grace. Tragically, though, Christ “saw multitudes perishing within reach of abundant help.” DA 753. All power (Matthew 28:18) has been given unto Christ for us to subdue the devil, but we must simply ask for it in prayer.
The Power of Prayer

How powerful is prayer? “Prayer has subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire.” COL 172. The way we defeat Satan’s kingdom is through prevailing prayer. “Pray in your closet, and as you go about your daily labor let your heart be often uplifted to God. It was thus that Enoch walked with God. These silent prayers rise like precious incense before the throne of grace. Satan cannot overcome him whose heart is thus stayed upon God.” STC 98-9.

As we have that constant communion with God, Satan and all his host are defeated foes. “If Satan sees that he is in danger of losing one soul, he will exert himself to the utmost to keep that one. And when the individual is aroused to his danger, and, with distress and fervor, looks to Jesus for strength, Satan fears that he will lose a captive, and he calls a reinforcement of his angels to hedge in the poor soul, and form a wall of darkness around him, that heaven’s light may not reach him. But if the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, our Saviour listens to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him. Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan’s whole host trembles. He continues to call legions of evil angels to accomplish his object. And when angels, all-powerful, clothed with the armory of heaven, come to the help of the fainting, pursued soul, Satan and his host fall back, well knowing that their battle is lost.” IT 345-6.

God Delights to Save

When we come to God in prayer, we “must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” Hebrews 11:6.

What is the character of God? “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retainteth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.” Micah 7:18. God wants us to know that He delights in saving our souls. “It is God’s glory to encircle sinful, repentant human beings in the arms of His love, to bind up their wounds, to cleanse them from sin, and to clothe them with the garments of salvation.” PK 668. What is our reward? “... The children of God are amply recompensed. ‘They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.’ Rev. 22:4.” COL 180.

Who are the only ones to see God’s face? “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart.” Psalms 24:3, 4.

God’s word gives us the assurance that He will give us His character as we present our supplications to Him. “Prayer is heaven’s ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant all for which he pleads. For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; and the promise is, ‘Ye shall receive.’” AA 564.

Why Don’t We Ask?

If prayer is this powerful, why don’t we pray to God and receive the promises? “Why are thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God. . . .” Psalms 42:11. “Satan is ready to steal away the blessed assurances of God. He desires to take every glimmer of hope and every ray of light from the soul.” STC 53. If we don’t hope in God’s mercy, then we’ll not receive His promises “for we are saved by hope. . . .” Romans 8:24. “Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.” Psalms 33:22. This hope is a sure hope because “hope maketh us not ashamed.” Romans 5:5.

“Prayer is heaven’s ordained means of success in the conflict with sin and the development of Christian character.”

But if Satan rightly points out our defects and faults, how can we have the hope of salvation? “Christ in you” is “the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27. Christ is our only hope of salvation. “When Satan seeks to cover the people of God with blackness, and ruin them, Christ interposes. Although they have sinned, Christ has taken the guilt of their sins upon His own soul.” COL 169. Christ saves us not on our own merit; we’re not saved by our own righteousness, but His righteousness. God “hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness. . . .” Isaiah 61:10.

We obtain His righteousness through His mercy. “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us.” Titus 3:5. “Their only hope is in the mercy of God; their only defense will be prayer.” PK 588. We can
boldly come to God and ask for pardon and grace. “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7.

If we ever want to realize Christ in us, we must banish every misrepresentation of God from our thoughts each day. “With the rich promises of the Bible before you, can you give place to doubt? Can you believe that when the poor sinner longs to return, longs to forsake his sins, the Lord sternly withholds him from coming to His feet in repentance? Away with such thoughts! Nothing can hurt your own soul more than to entertain such a conception of our heavenly Father.” STC 54.

**The Evidence of His Love**

“Let us group together the blessed assurances of His love, that we may look upon them continually: The Son of God leaving His Father’s throne, clothing His divinity with humanity, that He might rescue man from the power of Satan; His triumph in our behalf, opening heaven to men, revealing to human vision the presence chamber where the Deity unveils His glory; the fallen race uplifted from the pit of ruin into which sin had plunged it, and brought again into connection with the infinite God, and having endured the divine test through faith in our Redeemer, clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and exalted to His throne—these are the pictures which God would have us contemplate.” Ibid., 118.

Christ’s great love for us is His assurance that our prayers for pardon and grace will be answered. “But while the followers of Christ have sinned, they have not given themselves up to be controlled by the satanic agencies. They have repented of their sins and have sought the Lord in humility and contrition, and the divine Advocate pleads in their behalf. He who has been most abused by their ingratitude, who knows their sin and also their penitence, declares: ‘The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan. I gave my life for these souls. They are graven upon the palms of My hands. They may have imperfections of character; they may have failed in their endeavors; but they have repented, and I have forgiven and accepted them.’” PK 589.

*Franklin Morris writes from Virginia, where he is a student at Hartland College.*
Joseph's Dreams

Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was kind and obedient. To show his love, he made Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors. But his brothers hated him, because they saw that their father loved him more than he did them.

The Lord had a great work for Joseph to do. He gave him two wonderful dreams, which came true many years later. In the first dream, Joseph saw himself and his eleven brothers in the field binding grain into bundles, or sheaves. And his sheaf arose and stood up-right, and his brothers' sheaves bowed down to his sheaf.

It is probable that Joseph did not know what his dream meant. Had he known, he would not have told it to his brothers. When he did tell it to them, they hated him more than ever, and asked if he thought he would rule them.

Some time after this, Joseph dreamed that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to him. And he told this dream also.

And his father said, “Shall I, and thy mother, and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?”

But years afterward, when the famine came, his father, his brothers, and their families had to depend on Joseph in Egypt for all the food which they ate.

Joseph Sold as a Slave

Joseph's brothers were shepherds, and cared for their father's sheep. Sometimes they were compelled to go far away from home to find grass, for Jacob had large flocks.

One day Jacob sent Joseph to find his brothers. They had wandered many miles away in search of pasture, and he wanted to know if they were well.

Joseph had a hard time in finding them, for they had gone fifteen miles from the place where their father thought they were.

When they saw him coming, these wicked brothers said, “Behold, this dreamer cometh. Let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”

But one of the brothers, whose name was Reuben, was not so hard hearted as the others. He would not consent to have Joseph killed. He told them it would be better to cast him alive into a pit than to kill him.

Reuben intended to return to the pit after the others had gone away, and draw his brother out, and send him home to his father.

So when Joseph came up to them, instead of speaking kindly to him, and offering him food, for he was very tired and hungry, his brothers took hold of him roughly, tore off his beautiful coat, and then cast him alive into a deep pit.

Joseph loved his brothers, and appealed to each one to save him from the pit, but they would not.

It was not very long until a band of Ishmaelites came along on their way to Egypt, and the brothers drew Joseph out of the pit and sold him to them to be a slave.

Reuben was absent when Joseph was sold. He was very sorry when he came to take Joseph out of the pit, and saw he was not there. He tore his coat, and said, “The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?”

Then they all began to think of their father, and what they should tell him. So they killed a young goat from the flock, and then dipped the coat in its blood.

Then they took the coat to their father, and told him a lie. They said they had found the coat all covered with blood, and brought it to him to know if it was Joseph's coat. So one sin often leads to another.

Jacob knew the coat as soon as he saw it, and said, “It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.” And Jacob mourned for his son Joseph many days.

To Eat Meat or Not
To Eat Meat
Part 4

“Meat is not essential for health or strength, else the Lord made a mistake when He provided food for Adam and Eve before their fall. All the elements of nutrition are contained in the fruits, vegetables and grains.” Testimony Studies on Diet and Foods (1926), 62.

Wrapping up the latest series of articles, today I am discussing even more aspects of meat eating. As I have explained in the previous articles, the eating of animals has many far-reaching effects that I believe we don’t even understand the half of. Science is just now beginning to catch up with what we were told over 100 years ago in the area of meat in regards to health. For years it was thought that not only was meat good for you, but it was necessary! Now, as always, God’s way is being proved the best possible way. So today I’d like to talk more about the effects that meat has on your health and if you should be eating it at all.

When the topic of meat eating comes up, there are always a few of the same arguments in favor of meat. 1: “My father/grandfather/cousin/whoever ate meat and lived till he was 80!” Well, people smoke and drink, among other things, and live to ripe old ages, too. That doesn’t mean that those things are GOOD for them! That is hardly an argument. 2: “But if I stop eating meat, I feel weak! Obviously the meat was good for me and I needed it!” Again, like I mentioned in the first article, when a body is used to having drugs, caffeine, cigarettes, alcohol, etc., and you no longer allow it, you feel weak, tired, sick, cranky. This does not mean that you needed the drugs, just like it does not mean you need the meat. Meat is a stimulant, just like drugs are; therefore, when you take the stimulant away, you’re bound to feel sluggish for a time. Thankfully, this will go away! You must just be patient and do it in an appropriate manner. As the prophet has said:

“When the use of flesh food is discontinued, there is often a sense of weakness, a lack of vigor. Many urge this as evidence that flesh food is essential; but it is because foods of this class are stimulating, because they fever the blood and excite the nerves, that they are so missed. Some will find it as difficult to leave off flesh eating as it is for the drunkard to give up his dram; but they will be the better for the change.” Counsels on Diet and Foods, 396.

She also says, “It is a mistake to suppose that muscular strength depends on the use of animal food. The needs of the system can be better supplied, and more vigorous health can be enjoyed, without its use. The grains, with fruits, nuts, and vegetables, contain all the nutritive properties necessary to make good blood. These elements are not so well or so fully supplied by a flesh diet. Had the use of flesh been essential to health and strength, animal food would have been included in the diet appointed man in the beginning.” Ibid., emphasis added throughout.

Today I’d like to talk about how not only do you not need meat to be healthy, but if you do eat meat, you’re actually severely damaging your body. “An English study that compared the diets of 6,115 vegetarians and 5,015 meat eaters for 12 years found that the meatless diet yielded a 40 percent lower risk of cancer and a 20 percent lower risk of dying from any cause. According to William Castelli, M.D., director of the famed Framingham Heart Study, vegetarians outlive meat eaters by 3 to 6 years.”

If you noticed, that says 20% lower chance of dying from ANY cause. Now, that may seem ridiculous at first, but when you think about it, it actually makes sense. Many so-called “accidents” occur because the person is tired, unfocused, cranky, sluggish, or just not thinking clearly. All of these can be direct “side-effects” of meat eating. In fact, there are so many “side-effects” of eating meat that if it were an herb or plant, it would be yanked off
To Eat Meat or Not To Eat Meat continued

store shelves, classified “illegal,” and thrown away in biohazard bags! So if meat eating causes you to feel tired, weak, etc., and feeling like that causes accidents (work, automobile, home, etc.), and eating a vegetarian diet clears the mind and invigorates the body, you can see as well how vegetarians would be less likely to die from any type of accident!

Aside from all that though, meat is just plain bad for you. And much of that is because the animals from the factory farms and industrial production are absolutely filled with disease.

“Could you know just the nature of the meat you eat, could you see the animals when living from which the flesh is taken when dead, you would turn with loathing from your flesh meats. The very animals whose flesh you eat, are frequently so diseased that, if left alone, they would die of themselves; but while the breath of life is in them, they are killed and brought to market. You take directly into your system humors and poison of the worst kind, and yet you realize it not.” Counsels on Diet and Foods, 385.

This warning was given to us almost 100 years ago, so can you even imagine how much worse it is today? According to a Time magazine article, “At least 60% of U.S. poultry is contaminated with salmonella, campylobacter or other micro-organisms that spread throughout the birds from slaughter to packaging, a process that has sped up dramatically in the past 20 years. Each year at least 6.5 million and possibly as many as 80 million people get sick from chicken; the precise figure is unknown since most cases are never reported. Whatever that number, the conservative estimate is that bad chicken kills at least 1,000 people each year and costs several billion dollars annually in medical costs and lost productivity.”

A USDA microbiologist declared in another Time magazine story on processed poultry that “the final product is no different than if you stuck it in the toilet and ate it.” No wonder: A 1978 USDA rule allows poultry processors to wash contaminated birds rather than discard them or cut away affected parts. “Wash,” as interpreted by the poultry industry, means “communal dunk” in what amounts to a virtual fecal soup that ensures salmonella cross-contamination. And as far as beef goes, because of the way it is produced, one hamburger can contain the meat of 100 different cows from four different countries. So one infected animal has the potential to contaminate 16 tons of beef.

And that’s just the beginning. There are literally thousands of pages full of information on the disgusting conditions of the meat and the seriousness of disease linked to these conditions. So people say, “Well, that’s why you cook it! To kill all the disgusting stuff that’s on it!”

Let’s say that you could cook the meat and actually kill all the bacteria. Aside from the bacteria, the meat still just isn’t good for us. Our bodies weren’t made to digest the flesh from another animal.

What about blood pressure? “Animal foods are high in sodium, which causes the blood to retain water. They also cause plaque to build up in the arteries, narrowing the flow area for blood. Combine these phenomena and you have a recipe for a disease that afflicts about 50 million Americans: high blood pressure. You can take calcium channel blockers and diuretics to control it, but you risk losing intellectual function if you do, studies warn.”

What about protein? Can you get enough without meat in your diet? Interestingly enough, it is actually too much protein that is the cause of certain diseases such as osteoporosis. Though osteoporosis is a disease of calcium deficiency, it is not one of low calcium intake. One cause of the bone disorder is too much protein in the diet. Excess protein can leach calcium from the bones. Famed diet innovator Nathan Pritikin has noted that African Bantu women on low-protein diets take in a third of U.S.-recommended daily allowances of calcium. ‘They bear nine children during their lifetime and breast-feed them for two years. They never have calcium deficiency [and] never break a bone.’ The typical
meat-eating American is eating about five times as much protein as needed.\textsuperscript{5}
In addition, the calcium leached from the bones by the body’s efforts to neutralize the acids produced by too much protein intake can end up forming kidney stones and gall stones!

Well, what about iron? People say that you will become anemic if you don’t eat enough meat. Is that true? Can you not get enough iron from a vegetarian diet? For a while, it was touted that the iron in meat is more readily absorbed than the iron in plant foods, which appeared like an advantage to eating meat. However, researchers have found that just as with protein, you can get too much of a good thing! “Excess iron can be a catalyst in the formation of free radicals—unstable molecules that attack other molecules, setting off a chain reaction of cellular destruction. Overloading on it can lead to increased risk for cancer and cirrhosis of the liver, heart disease, arthritis, diabetes and infertility. A vegetarian is likely to have safer levels of stored iron.”\textsuperscript{6}

What about a vegetarian diet? What do the doctors say? In 1991 the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, a group of 4,500 medical doctors, came out with the new Four Food Groups. They are fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes (beans and peas). Meat and dairy are termed “optional,” not considered necessary for good health. And they revealed in 1995 that annual health-care costs directly resulting from the nation’s meat-centered diet are between $23.6 billion and $61.4 billion—comparable to costs associated with cigarette smoking.

Eating a plant-based diet guards against disease, first in an active way, with complex carbohydrates, phytochemicals, antioxidants, vitamins, minerals and fiber; and then by default. The more plant foods you eat, the less room you have for the animal foods that clog arteries with cholesterol, strain kidneys with excess protein, and burden the heart with saturated fat. Even the American Dietetic Association acknowledges a relationship between a vegetarian diet and reduced risk of coronary-artery disease, hypertension, diabetes, obesity and certain types of cancer.

Another benefit of a vegetarian diet is that it includes one of the most important things you can eat, yet it has no nutrient value whatsoever: fiber. Plant foods, grains in particular, are replete with it. Animal muscle has next to none, which is why those with meat-based diets have such high incidences of colon cancer.

The main reason that we should not eat animals is because, frankly, we don’t need to. Most of us in the U.S. don’t eat animals because we must in order to survive. We eat them because we want to. We are subjecting animals to torture, damaging the environment unnecessarily, and subjecting ourselves to greater risk of disease just to satisfy a desire, not a need. You can get a totally balanced diet without eating meat. The vegetables, fruits, grains, and nuts that the Lord provided for our parents in Eden are still the most nutritious foods available to us today. I urge you to stop hurting yourself, others, the environment and God’s creatures, and adopt a vegetarian lifestyle. You’ll feel better, think clearer, and be happier if you do.

I know this has been a long series, but hopefully you have enjoyed it and have learned something in the process. If you are interested in changing your diet and don’t know where to start, we are here to help! We have a number of cookbooks that can help teach you how to prepare delicious vegetarian meals, books with more information about the meat and dairy industry, and a brand new line of totally vegan meat substitutes that contain no MSG, preservatives, meat or dairy products OR byproducts. Call us today for more information!

5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
**End-time perspective:** “The strength of nations and of individuals is not found in the opportunities and facilities that appear to make them invincible; it is not found in their boasted greatness. That which alone can make them great or strong is the power of God. They themselves, by their attitude toward his purpose, decide their own destiny.” *Youth Instructor*, September 29, 1903.

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**Mega-Ministries Investigation**

Sen. Charles Grassley of the Senate Finance Committee announced a Senate investigation into the financial practices of six high-profile Christian ministries, as to whether the organizations have abused their tax-exempt status as churches to finance lavish personal lifestyles. Ministries of Paula White, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Bishop Eddie Long, Crefo Dollar, and Kenneth Copeland are being asked for full financial disclosure.

Grassley said complaints from the public and news outlets prompted the investigation. Crefo Dollar said the inquiry could threaten church privacy, but a Christian watchdog group research director said all tax-exempt organizations must be held accountable. Jamie Dean, *World*, Nov. 17, 2007, p. 42.

**End-time perspective:** “…The dignitaries of the temple themselves engaged in buying and selling, and the exchange of money. They were artful and avaricious, and the greed of gain overbore all religious scruples, and they carried their traffic to such extremes that they were no better than thieves in the sight of God.” *Spirit of Prophecy*, Vol. 3, 20.

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**Willow Creek’s Hybels: Seeker-Sensitivity “a Mistake”**

“…For most of a generation evangelicals have been romanced by the ‘seeker sensitive’ movement spawned by Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago,” led by Bill Hybels. “…With this ‘new wave’ …came a de-emphasis on taking personal responsibility for Bible study combined with an emphasis on felt-needs based ‘programs’ and slick marketing. The size of the crowd rather than the depth of the heart determined success…. Doctrine didn’t matter nearly as much as innovation. If it wasn’t ‘cutting edge’ and consumer friendly it was doomed. The mention of sin, salvation and sanctification were taboo.…. “…Satellite seminars were packed…. Forget what people need, give them what they want. How can you argue with the numbers? If you dared to challenge the ‘experts’ you were immediately labeled as a ‘traditionalist,’ a throwback to the 50s, a stubborn dinosaur unwilling to change with the times.

“All that changed recently. Willow Creek has released the results of a multi-year study on the effectiveness of their programs and philosophy of ministry. The study’s findings are in a new book titled Reveal: Where Are You?, co-authored by Cally Parkinson and Greg Hawkins, executive pastor of Willow Creek Community Church…. “…The report reveals that most of what they have been doing for these many years and what they have taught millions of others to do is not producing solid disciples of Jesus Christ. Numbers yes, but not disciples.…. “If you simply want a crowd, the
“seeker sensitive” model produces results. If you want solid, sincere, mature followers of Christ, it’s a bust…. Hybels states: ‘We made a mistake….’

“Incredibly, the guru of church growth now tells us that people need to be reading their bibles and taking responsibility for their spiritual growth…. The foundation of thousands of American churches is now discovered to be mere sand…. The extent of this error defies measurement.

“Perhaps the most shocking thing of all…. is in a summary statement by Greg Hawkins: ‘Our dream is that we fundamentally change the way we do church. That we…. rethink all of our old assumptions. Replace it with new insights. Insights that are informed by research and rooted in Scripture….’

“Please note that ‘rooted in Scripture’ still follows ‘rethink,’ ‘new insights’ and ‘informed research.’ Someone, it appears, still might not get it. Unless there is a return to simple biblical (and relevant) principles, a new faulty scheme will replace the existing one and another generation will follow along as the latest piper plays…..” Bob Burney of “Bob Burney Live,” WRFD, Columbus, OH, at Crosswalk.com, Oct. 30, 2007.

**End-time perspective:** “Wherever the truths of the gospel are proclaimed, those who honestly desire to do right are led to a diligent searching of the Scriptures. If, in the closing scenes of this earth’s history, those to whom testing truths are proclaimed would follow the example of the Bereans, searching the Scriptures daily, and comparing with God’s word the messages brought them, there would today be a large number loyal to the precepts of God’s law, where now there are comparatively few. But when unpopular Bible truths are presented, many refuse to make this investigation…..” Acts of the Apostles, 232.

**Church and State: Latest Twist**

In three races for governor this year, “candidates from both parties made religious appeals a significant part of their political campaigns.

“The local elections provided a glimpse of what is already unfolding” in the presidential race. “Democrats and Republicans alike are determined to establish their religious credentials with voters, as faith becomes fashionable in the public square.” Jamie Dean, World, Nov. 17, 2007. (Contrib. by Irene Judd.)

**End-time perspective:** “The Constitution provides that… ‘no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office of public trust under the United States.’” GC88 442.

**Benedict’s First U.S. Trip**

In April, “Pope Benedict XVI will meet the president, hold two public Masses [in stadiums] and address the United Nations in his first visit… as pontiff….” Asso. Press, Nov. 13, 2007.

**End-time perspective:** “The pope claims authority over the practice of many who do not recognize Christ as our only authority…. We are to have no kings, no rulers, no popes among us.” 4 MR 291.

**Catholic Church’s U. S. Voice**

“Cardinal Francis George of Chicago was elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. In that role, he will lead Catholics in welcoming [the pope] on his first papal visit to the United States in April. He will also be the U.S. voice for the church during the upcoming presidential elections…..” Cathy Grossman, USA Today, Nov. 14, 2007.

**End-time perspective:** “The Roman church largely controls the secular press of the country.” GC88 688.

**Night Shifts Hard on Heart**

“A study published in Circulation, the journal of the American Heart Asso. reveals that… the human body seems to run on a 24-hour pattern, regardless of the changes in sleep habits. People do not adapt easily to shift work, because it is difficult for the body’s ‘internal clock’ to change with varied work schedules. The study suggests that the forced change in sleep routines could explain why shift workers are at a higher risk for diseases and accidents,” especially heart disease. www.health-alliance.com/Living/Work/work_01-01.html.

**End-time perspective:** “This turning night into day is a wretched, health-destroying habit…. “ Daughters of God, 177.

**Numbers Racket**

Dan Gilgoff, who covers the evangelical movement for U.S. News and World Report, told WORLD that “in his experience, megachurch pastors ‘notoriously inflate membership’ numbers. The reasons? ‘Media attention, political influence, and money…..’ ”

Prof. Alan Freitag, said, “Using numbers to measure the effectiveness of a church seems a questionable measure in the first place….” Warren Smith, WORLD, Dec. 1, 2007, 26-7. (Contrib. by Irene Judd.)

**End-time perspective:** “Jesus says, ‘If I be lifted up, will draw all unto me.’ Here is the secret of power, of effectiveness.” EGW 1888 Materials, 805.
“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.” E.G. White, Life Sketches, 196. Many today have neglected to study the history and people that made up the early days of the Advent movement. To help encourage interest in Adventist history, we have put together questions about people and events of our past. Our goal is to spark faith and further study into “the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”

Historical Footnotes


1. In March of _____, “mysterious rappings” occurred in the Fox home.
   a. 1845
   b. 1848
   c. 1850
   d. 1856

2. Few expected the rapping would grow into
   a. Modern spiritualism.
   b. An organized religion.
   c. A world-wide movement.
   d. All of the above.

3. Just 50 years later, spiritualism’s adherents numbered _____ in the U.S. alone.
   a. 1 million
   b. 2 million
   c. 5 million
   d. 10 million

4. Hiram Edson and Cyrenius Smith, among others, sold their farms to further the work. Those 2 men then
   a. Learned new trades.
   b. Lived with other family members.
   c. Received large inheritances.
   d. Rented farms.

5. On December 4, 1855, in _____, the Review was published for the first time in an office and with a press owned by SDAs.
   a. Rochester, NY
   b. Battle Creek, MI
   c. Oswego, NY
   d. Paris, ME

6. In 1855, the Review publishing committee decided to pay its workers
   a. A bonus.
   b. With stock options.
   c. As donations came in, but before purchases.
   d. A reasonable salary.

7. When James White was first voted to receive $6 weekly for his editorial services, he accepted
   a. Only $2.
   b. Only $4.
   c. Only $5.
   d. Only half that.

8. Signs of the Times was initially devoted to the cause
   a. On the Pacific Coast.
   b. In the Caribbean Islands.
   c. In Europe.
   d. In the Spanish language.

9. In 1875, 7 years of book sales at the Review and Herald office totaled almost ____ times the previous 7-year period.
   a. Two
   b. Four
   c. Six
   d. Eight

10. In 1861, for $6 weekly, James White served as editor, manager, and ______.
    a. Preacher.
    b. Handyman.
    c. Meeting organizer.
    d. Print setter.

**Feature Product**

**Hope For Health**

**Slender**

**FACT:** Over 60% of all Americans are either overweight or obese. Almost 20% of our children are overweight, up from only 5% in 1980.

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• Eliminates tough infections after they have already set in.
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• Has no negative interactions with other medications.

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Viral: Colds, flu, herpes (type 1 and 2), leukemia, warts (all varieties), virally-caused cancers, as well as acne, boils, burns, dermatitis, eczema, psoriasis, skin cancer, all types of wounds, etc.

Fungal/Yeast: Athlete’s foot, Candida/yeast infections, jock itch, etc.

Bacterial: Dental infections, eye infections, ear infections, gingivitis, intestinal infections, pneumonia, sinus infections, staph, strep throat, syphilis, tuberculosis, tonsillitis, throat infections, urinary tract infections, etc.

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Letters to The Editor

Thank you for the sermons. I have really learned a lot! Thank everyone for their hard work. Keep it up.

DK, Minnesota

Your ministry has been a help to me in restoring the right living principles taught in the health message. Thank you.

DS

We are grateful for your ministry that produces food in due season. We have no words to explain when we received your precious book on special issues that are dear down in our hearts that we always relate to our SDA fellow brethren. They were showers of blessing to our special group that has joined us in prayers and effort to see that some are saved from the modern delusions in Adventism.

The Lord has opened ways tremendously. We are invited every Sabbath to different churches to present the truth for now, especially on the topics spirit of prophecy and the Bible and who is Ellen G. White.

We were astonished to find that even the elders who have been in church more than 20-30 years no longer acknowledge her as an end-time prophet. The load has touched the hearts of many members in church, and now we have a great, great work. Though young as we are, we have to fully dedicate our time and money to visit eager members and introduce the new wine to them.

Here in Kenya, many do not know the peculiarities of the SDA faith. Most of them are like Baptists, without even knowing how to keep the Sabbath holy, and when you challenge them, they know nothing.

Truly, brothers and sisters in Hope International Ministry, never give up. Help us in prayers because until yet we have not been confronted with anyone rejecting our message. The Lord is still holding the evil forces.

We cannot hide our love and need of Our Firm Foundation magazines, your books, tapes, CDs and DVDs. Always, our theme is the Bible and the spirit of prophecy in all our sermons. GOD BLESS YOU.

S&LM, Kenya

Your DVDs are preachers’ sermons which go where the preacher cannot always go.

KH

We have particularly benefited from the series on the “daily.”

DT, Maine

When I was back in my home country (Zimbabwe) we used to receive the magazines regularly and I feel in need of receiving the plain truth through this magazine and sharing it with others. I have a burden on my heart for the souls that need to know the word of God.

CM, United Kingdom

May the Lord bless your efforts mightily. Your DVD has experienced a big step up in its presentations. Just a blessing through and through. I see “simplicity,” "simplicity." The Lord will continue to bless your efforts. We are on the very edge, and as we obey him, we have nothing to fear.

RR, MA

I enjoy very much the articles in your magazine. They are food for my soul and they are helping me grow in Christ.

TS, ID

(Re free DVD offer) I don’t want to miss this wonderful offer. Your messages mean a lot to me!

TB, TX

(To SH in Pennsylvania: a fellow senior citizen would like to correspond with you. Ask for Robin at Hope.)
Reaping the Whirlwind
Joe Crews

You don't have to watch the weather channel to see this tsunami-like hurricane sweeping through the church! It begins with a small compromise, and gathers momentum until the spiritual foundation is tested, and often shaken. The author calls upon readers to avoid building upon the shifting sand and, instead, to dig deep and lay their foundation on the Solid Rock!

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Louise Hagler

If you are not a fan of tofu, you will be as soon as you try any of these mouth-watering recipes! 200 different, delicious ways to use tofu, which is, by the way, high-protein, low-calorie and cholesterol-free! You will find everything from light snacks, family meals, and even desserts included in this beautifully illustrated cookbook.

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